

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 /081 W
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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2936

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 10431

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, SP, AG, PINT,

SUBJECT: GOS RECALLS AMBASSADOR FROM ALGIERS, SENDS NOTE
PROTESTING FLN DAILY'S ARTICLE ON CANARIES

1. THE GOS ANNOUNCED DECEMBER 21 THAT IT HAD RECALLED
FOR CONSULTATION THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR IN ALGIERS AND
HAD CALLED IN THE ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR IN MADRID TO
RECEIVE A NOTE PROTESTING A POLEMICAL ARTICLE ON THE
CANARIES PUBLISHED DECEMBER 19 BY THE FLN DAILY "EL
MOUDJAHID." THE NOTE REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED "THE MOST
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VIGOROUS PROTEST" OVER THE ARTICLE, "WHICH REFERS TO THE
CANARIES IN TERMS WHICH CONSTITUTE INTERFERENCE IN
SPAIN'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND AN ATTACK AGAINST HER
TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, AS WELL AS A VIOLATION OF INTER-
NATIONAL LAW." THE NOTE REPORTEDLY GOES ON TO CALL THE
GOA'S ATTENTION TO THE "GRAVITY" OF THE SITUATION AND ITS
POSSIBLE IMPACT ON THE "NORMAL DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS"

BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, AND CALLS FOR AN EXPLANATION.

2. ACCORDING TO A PURPORTED TEXT OF THE "EL MOUDJAHID" PIECE, ATTRIBUTED TO THE NEWSPAPER'S DIRECTOR, ALI HABID, AND PUBLISHED DECEMBER 22 BY MADRID'S "EL PAIS," THE ARTICLE STATES INTER ALIA THAT:

--THE CANARIES ARE ECONOMICALLY EXPLOITED COLONIES OF THE SPANISH METROPOLE;

--THE US MAINTAINS TWO SONAR BASES, AT LAS PALMAS AND PENO; BECAUSE OF THE ISLANDS USE BY NATO, THEY ARE A "PERMANENT THREAT TO WEST AFRICA" AND AN IMPORTANT LINK IN EFFORTS TO DESTABLIZE THE MAGHREB;

--SPAIN IS NOT DISPOSED TO ABANDON HER "LAST COLONY", BUT WILL INSTEAD CEDE TO NATO, UPON ENTERING THE "AGGRESSIVE ALLIANCE," AN IMPORTANT MILITARY BASE ALREADY PREPARED FOR THIS USE;

--ALL THE SPANISH POLITICAL PARTIES, INCLUDING THE PSOE AND PCE, "REJECT THE LEGITIMATE ASPIRATIONS FOR INDEPENDENCE OF A LARGE PART OF THE (CANARIAN) POPULATION";

--THE ARTICLE THEN QUOTES CANARIES INDEPENDENCE (MPAIAC) LEADER ANTONIO CUBILLO AS STATING: "OUR PROBLEM IS AN AFRICAN PROBLEM THAT SHOULD BE RESOLVED WITHIN THE FRAME WORK OF AFRICAN REALITY...WE ONLY ACCEPT POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL INDEPENDENCE BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE FORCE OF ARMS...IF SPAIN WANTS THE PROBLEM RESOLVED RAPIDLY
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AND PEACEFULLY, IT MUST RECOGNIZE OUR LEGITIMATE ASPIRATIONS FOR INDEPENDENCE, RECOGNIZE MPAIAC AS THE ONLY LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CANARIAN ("GUANCHE") PEOPLE, AND ACCEPT AMEETING WITH US ON AFRICAN TERRITORY, AND UNDER AFRICAN AUSPICES, TO FIX A CALENDAR THAT WILL PERMIT US TO OBTAIN OUR SOVEREIGNTY;"

--THE DOOR IS OPEN TO NEGOTIATIONS, THE PIECE CONCLUDES, AND IT APPEARS THAT THE BALL IS IN SPAIN'S COURT.

3. THE "EL MOUDJAHID" ARTICLE, AS PRESENTED IN "EL PAIS," COULD NOT HAVE BEEN BETTER CALCULATED TO INFURIATE SPANIARDS OF ALMOST ALL POLITICAL PERSUASIONS. NO ONE BUT THE CANARIAN EXTREMIST FRINGE CONSIDERS THE ISLANDS ANYTHING BUT AN INTEGRALPART OF SPAIN, AND SPANISH SENSITIVITIES ACROSS THE BOARD HAVE BEEN SHARPENED BY THE CONFLICT ON THE NEARBY SAHARAN MAINLAND AND BY PUBLIC ORDER PROBLEMS AND WORSENING ECONOMIC CONDITIONS ON THE ISLANDS THEMSELVES. THE SPANISH COMMUNISTS (PCE) WERE QUICK TO ISSUE A STATEMENT ON DECEMBER 21 CRITICIZING THE GOA HARSHLY FOR "SUPPORTING THE PRO-INDEPENDENCE AND TERRORIST ACTS OF MPAIAC. THIS ATTITUDE CAN ONLY HARM THE CAUSE OF THE SAHARAUI PEOPLE AND THE FRIENDLY

RELATIONS WHICH ALWAYS HAVE EXISTED BETWEEN ALGERIA AND THE DEMOCRATIC FORCES OF SPAIN." PSOE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER (AND DEPUTY FROM THE CANARIES) LUIS FAJARDO ALSO ADDRESSED THE MADRID PRESS IN SIMILAR TERMS ON DECEMBER 21. FAJARDO REPORTEDLY ADDED THAT THE PSOE ALWAYS HAD INSISTED THAT ALGERIA'S SUPPORT FOR CUBILLO AND MPAIAC CONSTITUTED "INTERFERENCE IN SPAIN'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS."

4. ALTHOUGH THE GOS OBVIOUSLY HAS UPPED THE BIDDING WITH THE RECALL OF ITS AMBASSADOR, PROTESTS TO THE GOA OVER ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD THE CANARIES AND ITS SUPPORT FOR CUBILLO ARE NOTHING NEW. THE GOS HAS CONSISTENTLY DEMONSTRATED ITS SENSITIVITY TO ANYTHING SMACKING OF CONFIDENTIAL

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FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN THE CANARIES, AND MOST RECENTLY (DECEMBER 16) THIS TOOK THE FORM OF A NOTE TO THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN MADRID VIGOROUSLY PROTESTING THE INCLUSION OF CUBILLO AMONG GUESTS AT THE CELEBRATION OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION AT THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN ALGIERS.EATON

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